

### Session 3: Encouraging Spiritual Growth in Our Spouses

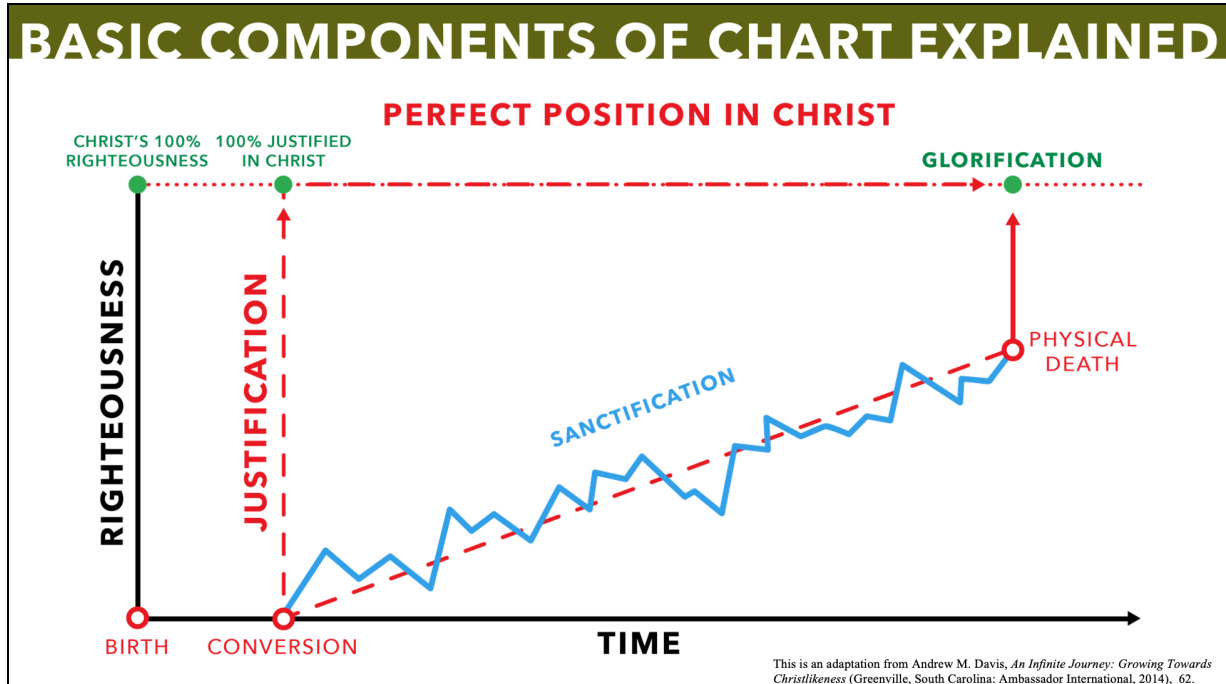
Presented by Pastor John Kaneshiro

#### 1. Introduction

- a. Galatians 5:16-26 - speaks to every Christian's responsibility to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.
  - b. Where this text lives: As Paul is addressing this church in Galatia, they were struggling with what it means to live according to their old nature compared to their new nature.
  - c. <sup>13</sup>For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. <sup>14</sup>For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>15</sup>But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another."<sup>1</sup>
  - d. Paul is instructing believers to:
    - i. Avoid license to sin by the Spirit
    - ii. Love and serve by the Spirit
    - iii. Avoid malicious talk by the Spirit
  - e. A Christian's love for God manifests itself in our love for the Church, other believers.
  - f. Overview:
    - i. Understanding Our Spiritual Growth
    - ii. Understanding Our Spouse's Spiritual Growth
    - iii. Understanding the Differences and Encouraging Our Spouse's Growth
- #### 2. Understanding Our Spiritual Growth-
- a. Christian Growth Curve- Each chart will contain the successes and failures in a Christian's life.
  - b. Warnings:
    - i. These charts are limited-
    - ii. The charts are not perfect but simply suggestive-
    - iii. Overly simplistic-
    - iv. Not to scale-
    - v. Not meant to give comfort to those living in sin-
  - c. Christian Growth Charts:
    - i. Basic components of chart explained

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<sup>1</sup> The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Galatians 5:13-15. All passages of Scripture will come from this translation unless otherwise referenced.

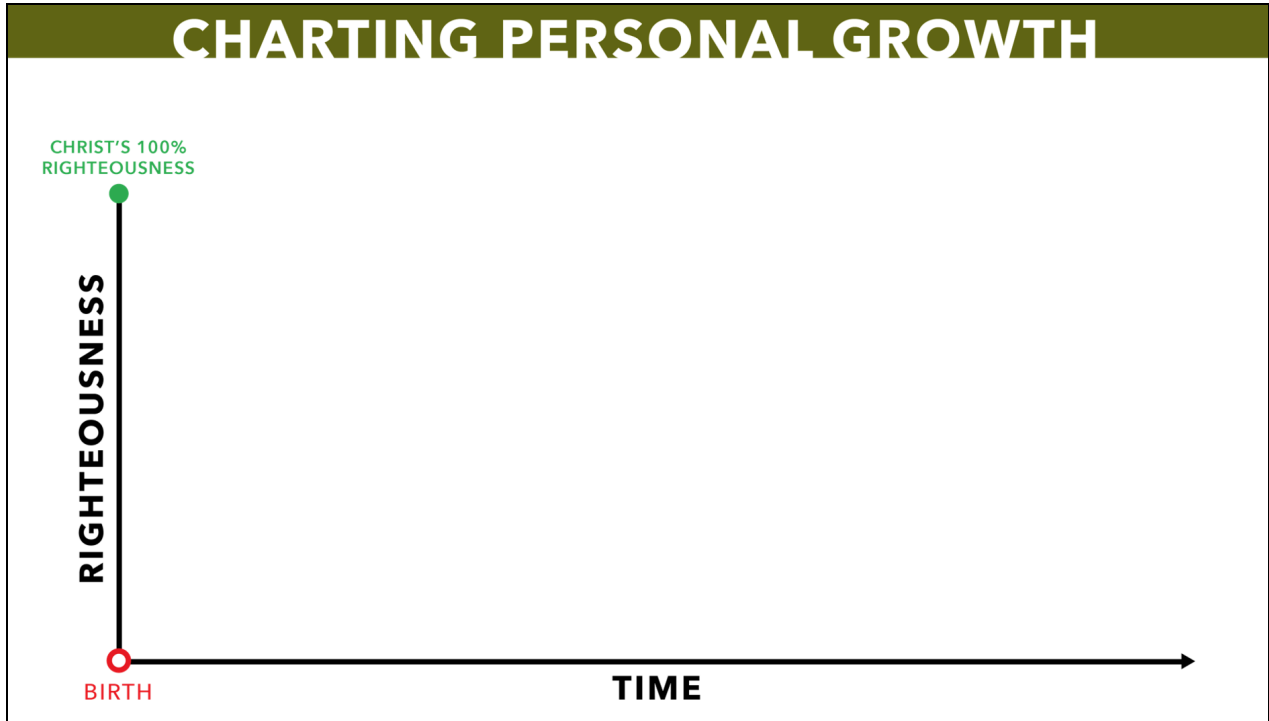


- ii. Consistent Abundant Faithfulness-
- iii. Late Bloomer
- iv. Thief on the cross
- v. Restored from Great Sin
- vi. Forsaken first love
- vii. Mired in Mediocrity

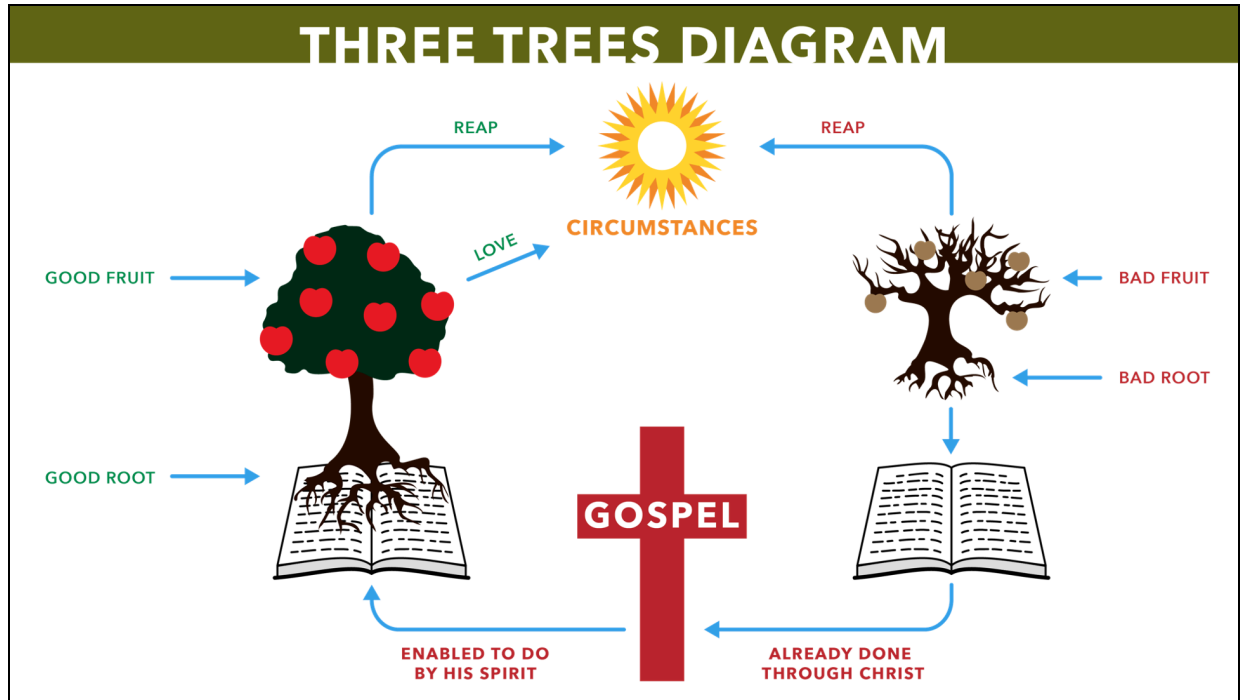
d. Charting Personal Growth

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<sup>2</sup> This is an adaptation of the Christian growth curve found in Andrew M. Davis, *An Infinite Journey: Growing Towards Christlikeness* (Greenville, South Carolina: Ambassador International, 2014), p. 62.



- i. Take a moment to draw your own graph (5 mins).
  - ii. Take your time, include:
    1. Landmark events that either helped your grow, or caused you to decline in your Christlikeness
    2. Possible areas of plateauing- try to mark down what caused it.
    3. Possible areas of growth, try to give a quick note as to what event/s caused this growth.
3. Understanding Our Spouse's Growth
- a. "Showing our true colors"?
  - b. Three Trees Diagram- understanding individual circumstances/moments that can either reap good fruit or bad fruit.



- i. **The Sun-** represents the everyday circumstances in life that can cause pressure, worry, anger, stress, and doubt.
  - ii. **Reap (negative)-** refers to the manifestations of how we respond to these circumstances.
  - iii. **Bad Fruit-** refers to the sins themselves that are growing, sometimes goes unnoticed, and are often easily hidden.
  - iv. **Bad Root-** refers to the lack of growing in knowledge and love of God through the Bible.
  - v. **The Gospel-** refers to God's grand story from Creation to Final Glorification (from Genesis to Revelation).
  - vi. **Good Root-** refers to one's consistent growth in knowledge and love of God through the Bible.
  - vii. **Good Fruit-** refers to the things that are produced out of our participation with the Holy Spirit's work in our transformation. This is where
  - viii. **Reap (positive)-** refers to the manifestations of how we respond to our challenging circumstances.
- c. Workshop-
- i. What are some circumstances that cause you/your spouse to feel pressure, worry, anger, stress, or doubt? Explain.

- ii. What do these circumstances often reap? Explain.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- iii. What sins are related to these actions? Explain.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- iv. What has Christ already done for these sins? Explain.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- v. What are some actions that God, through His Holy Spirit, can enable you to do (where you could not do them on your own)? Explain.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- vi. In what ways have you maintained consistent growth, in knowledge and love of God, through your study of the Bible? Explain.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- vii. In what ways are you enabled to love your spouse, through the love of Christ?

